



## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-96003; File No. SR-CBOE-2022-050]

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend its Fees Schedule**

October 6, 2022.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on September 26, 2022, Cboe Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “Cboe Options”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

Cboe Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “Cboe Options”) proposes to amend its Fees Schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website (<http://www.cboe.com/AboutCBOE/CBOELegalRegulatoryHome.aspx>), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule to modify the fee for the SPX (and SPXW) Floor Market-Maker Tier Appointment Fee.<sup>3</sup>

By way of background, Exchange Rule 5.50(g)(2) provides that the Exchange may establish one or more types of tier appointments and Exchange Rule 5.50(g)(2)(B) provides such tier appointments are subject to such fees and charges the Exchange may establish. In 2010, the Exchange established the SPX Tier Appointment and adopted an initial fee of \$3,000 per Market-Maker trading permit, per month.<sup>4</sup> The SPX (and SPXW) Tier Appointment fee for Floor Market-Makers currently applies to any Market-Maker that executes any contracts in SPX and/or SPXW on the trading floor.<sup>5</sup> The Exchange now seeks to increase the fee for the SPX/SPXW Floor Market-Maker Tier Appointment from \$3,000 per Market-Maker Floor Trading Permit to \$5,000 per Market-Maker Floor Trading Permit.

In connection with the proposed change, the Exchange also proposes to update Footnote 24 in the Fees Schedule, as well as remove the reference to Footnote 24 in the

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<sup>3</sup> The Exchange initially filed the proposed fee change, among other changes, on June 1, 2022 (SR-CBOE-2022-026). On June 10, 2022, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted SR-CBOE-2022-029. On August 5, 2022, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted SR-CBOE-2022-042. On September 26, 2022, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted this filing to address the proposed fee change relating to the SPX/SPXW Floor Market-Maker Tier Appointment Fee.

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62386 (June 25, 2010), 75 FR 38566 (July 2, 2010) (SR-CBOE-2010-060).

<sup>5</sup> The Exchange notes that the fee is not assessed to a Market-Maker Floor Permit Holder who only executes SPX (including SPXW) options transactions as part of multi-class broad-based index spread transactions. See Cboe Options Fees Schedule, Market-Maker Tier Appointment Fees, Notes.

Market-Maker Tier Appointment Fee Table. By way of background, in June 2020, the Exchange adopted Footnote 24 to describe pricing changes that would apply for the duration of time the Exchange trading floor was being operated in a modified manner in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>6</sup> Among other changes, Footnote 24 provided that the monthly fee for the SPX/SPXW Floor Market-Maker Tier Appointment Fee was to be increased to \$5,000 per Trading Permit from \$3,000 per Trading Permit. As the Exchange now proposes to maintain the \$5,000 rate on a permanent basis (i.e., regardless of whether the Exchange is operating in a modified state due to COVID-19 pandemic), the Exchange proposes to eliminate the reference to the SPX/SPXW Floor Market-Maker Tier Appointment Fee in Footnote 24.<sup>7</sup>

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>8</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>9</sup> requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public

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<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 89189 (June 30, 2020), 85 FR 40344 (July 6, 2020) (SR-CBOE-2020-058).

<sup>7</sup> The Exchange notes that since its transition to a new trading floor facility on June 6, 2022, it has not been operating in a modified manner. As such Footnote 24 (i.e., the modified fee changes it describes) does not currently apply.

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>10</sup> requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes its proposal to increase the SPX (and SPXW) Floor Market-Maker Tier Appointment fee is reasonable because the proposed amount is not significantly higher than was previously assessed (and is the same amount that has been assessed under Footnote 24 for the last two years). Additionally, the Exchange believes its proposal to increase the fee is reasonable as the fee amount has not been increased since it was adopted over 12 years ago in July 2010.<sup>11</sup> Since its adoption 12 years ago, there has been both inflation and increased costs of services, including relating to facility and technology upgrades associated with the new trading floor. Indeed, the Exchange notes that the trading pit for SPX in particular is the largest trading pit on the new trading floor and represents a significant amount of space on the new trading floor. Additionally, over the last decade the Exchange has made, and continues to make, further investments to encourage growth trends in SPX volume, including investments in marketing, sales teams, global coverage teams, and new product innovations (such as adding additional weekly expirations and LEAPS). The Exchange notes that the SPX (and SPXW) Tier Appointment fee helps fund these efforts. Moreover, although the SPX (and SPXW) Tier Appointment fee has not increased since 2010, SPX volume, including volume on the trading floor, has increased significantly since that time. The Exchange therefore believes the proposed fee increase is reasonable because it allows the Exchange to recoup fees associated with the costs of maintaining and growing SPX and SPXW, which products can help market participants achieve broad market protection.

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<sup>10</sup> Id.

<sup>11</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62386 (June 25, 2010), 75 FR 38566 (July 2, 2010) (SR-CBOE-2010-060).

The proposed change is also equitable and not unfairly discriminatory as it applies to all Market-Makers that trade SPX on the trading floor uniformly. The Exchange believes it's reasonable equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to increase the SPX/SPXW floor Market-Maker Tier Appointment fee and not the SPX/SPXW electronic Market-Maker Tier Appointment fee, as Floor Market-Makers are not subject to other costs that electronic Market-Makers are subject to. For example, while all Floor Market-Makers automatically have an appointment to trade open outcry in all classes traded on the Exchange and at no additional cost per appointment, electronic Market-Makers must select an appointment in a class (such as SPX) to make markets electronically and such appointments are subject to fees under the Market-Maker Electronic Appointments Sliding Scale.<sup>12</sup>

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule changes will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because the proposed changes would be applied in the same manner to all Floor Market-Makers that trade SPX (and/or SPXW). As noted above, the Exchange believes it's reasonable to increase the SPX/SPXW Tier Appointment Fee for only Floor Market-Makers only as opposed to electronic Market-Makers, because electronic Market-Makers are subject to costs Floor Market-Makers are not, such as the fees under Market-Maker EAP [sic] Appointments Sliding Scale.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of

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<sup>12</sup> See Cboe Options Rules 5.50(a) and (e). See also Cboe Options Fees Schedule, Market-Maker EAP [sic] Appointments Sliding Scale.

the purposes of the Act because the proposed rule changes apply only to a fee relating to a product exclusively listed on the Exchange. Additionally, the Exchange notes it operates in a highly competitive market. In addition to Cboe Options, TPHs have numerous alternative venues that they may participate on (which list products that compete with SPX options) and direct their order flow, including 15 other options exchanges (four of which also maintain physical trading floors), as well as off-exchange venues, where competitive products are available for trading. Based on publicly available information, no single options exchange has more than 18% of the market share of executed volume of options trades.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of option order flow. Moreover, the Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”<sup>14</sup> The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ ... As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for

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<sup>13</sup> See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Options Market Volume Summary by Month (September 26, 2022), available at [http://markets.cboe.com/us/options/market\\_share/](http://markets.cboe.com/us/options/market_share/).

<sup>14</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’....”.<sup>15</sup> Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe its proposed changes to the incentive programs impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>16</sup> and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4<sup>17</sup> thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

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<sup>15</sup> NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

<sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>17</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-CBOE-2022-050 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2022-050. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to



File Number SR-CBOE-2022-050 and should be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>18</sup>

**J. Lynn Taylor,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).